



## Reach Out I'll Be There

**Bible Story:** Reach Out I'll Be There (Peter Goes to the House of Cornelius) • Acts 10

**Bottom Line:** Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others.

**Memory Verse:** *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*  
Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

**Life App:** Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**CG:** Theme Slide

*Host enters.*

## Opener

**HOST:** “Hey, everybody! My name is *(your name)*, and I’m excited that you’re here! We’re having a ton of fun this summer as we FOCUS on what it means to have faith.

**CG: Faith Slide**

**“Faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

“If you want to trust in something—or someONE—you’ve got to know that they’re trustworthy. You’ve got to know that you can count on them, one hundred percent. That’s what it’s like with God. We can put our faith in Him completely, because we know He is completely good! We can FOCUS on what we CAN see—the way He works in our lives, and the way He’s been working in people’s lives since the very beginning. That helps us have faith!

“Have you ever seen something, but then you walked away and couldn’t remember exactly what it looked like? There are probably lots of things we see every day that we think we remember, but we actually don’t. We can play a fun quiz game about that. Let’s take a closer look, and see what you can remember!

“Let’s get started! First question, who is taller: Buzz Lightyear or Woody?

*After each question, wait to get everyone’s answers before revealing the image.*

*Note: You can either reveal the image on screen, use a printed picture, or you can hold up actual objects to reveal the answer. Also, you can use these questions, or make other questions that match items you have on hand.*

“Okay, raise your hand if you got that one right. *(Pause.)* Are you ready for the next one? What color is Mickey Mouse’s nose?”

“Great! Raise your hand if you got that one right. *(Pause.)* Are you ready for the next one? On a stoplight, what color is on the top?”

“Hands up if you got that one right. *(Pause.)* Next, what color is a bag of traditional Chex Mix?”

“If you got that right, raise your hand. *(Pause.)* Are you ready for the next one? What is the number on the side of Lightning McQueen?”

“Raise your hand if you knew that. *(Pause.)* Next question, what color is the collar that Mickey’s dog, Pluto, wears?”

“All right! You all have done really well! Here’s the final question for you. How many eyes does a Minion have?”

“If you said, ‘One or two,’ you’re correct! Great job, everyone. That game really tested our ability to FOCUS on something and remember it!”

“Let’s put our FOCUS on God now as we sing and worship Him together. Everybody up on your feet!”

*Host exits as Worship Leaders enter.*

## Worship

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**VIDEO: One Big Story Intro**

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! We’re taking a look at a part of God’s Big Story that happened after Jesus lived on Earth then died, came back to life, and went to heaven.

*Pick up the camera. (Or stand next to it, if it’s on a tripod.)*

“I thought it would be fun to use this camera and show some snapshots of what happened in our story. Now, there weren’t any cameras back then. But this way we can take a closer look and get to know the different people who were part of the story. Let’s get started.

“The church was growing quickly as more and more people put their faith in Jesus. As the early church grew, one of Jesus’ closest friends, Peter, traveled from town to town.

*Act like you’re taking a picture with the camera. Point the camera off in the distance and not at anything in particular.*

**CG: Bible story image #1 (Peter spreading the news)**

*SFX: Camera click*

"He was telling people the good news about Jesus and healing people who were sick.

"While Peter was in a city called Joppa, he even raised a dead woman to life through the power of God's Spirit! Many people in Joppa became believers. So, Peter stayed there for a while with a leather worker named Simon who lived by the sea."

### **GO GET PETER**

**STORYTELLER:** "About forty miles north of Joppa, lived a Roman army commander named Cornelius.

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #2 (Cornelius praying)*

*SFX: Camera click*

"Cornelius wasn't Jewish, but he and his family worshipped God, and they gave to anyone who needed help.

"One day, as Cornelius was praying, God sent an angel in a vision to him.

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #3 (Angel speaking to Cornelius)*

*SFX: Camera click*

"The angel said:

*Open the Bible to Acts 10:5-6 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Send men to Joppa. Have them bring back a man named Simon. He is also called Peter. He is staying with another Simon, a man who works with leather. His house is by the sea.”*

*“So, Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier. He told them what had happened, and he sent them to Joppa to find Peter.”*

### **PETER'S VISION**

**STORYTELLER:** *“Around noon the next day, Peter went up on the roof to pray.*

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #4 (Peter praying on the roof)*

*SFX: Camera click*

*“He was hungry and wanted something to eat. While the meal was cooked, he had a vision.*

*Open the Bible to Acts 10:11-16 (NIRV) and read.*

*“[Peter] saw heaven open up. There he saw something that looked like a large sheet. It was being let down to earth by its four corners. It had all kinds of four-footed animals in it. It also had reptiles and birds in it. Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ ‘No, Lord! I will not!’ Peter replied. ‘I have never eaten anything that is not pure and ‘clean.’” The voice spoke to him a second time. It said, ‘Do not say anything is not pure that God has made ‘clean.’” This happened three times. Right away the sheet was taken back up to heaven.*

*“Whoa. I'm not sure my camera could even come close to what THAT must have looked like!*

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #5 (Peter's vision)*

*SFX: Camera click*

"Just to fill you in on the part about the animals, Jews weren't allowed to eat the meat of any of these animals, because they were called 'unclean.' As you might imagine, Peter wondered what the vision meant.

"Soon, the men sent by Cornelius arrived and asked if Peter was staying there.

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #6 (Cornelius' men arrive at Simon's house)*

*SFX: Camera click*

"God's Spirit spoke to Peter, and told him to go with Cornelius' men. The men told him that Cornelius was 'a good man who worships God.' (Acts 10:22, NIV) They explained that an angel had appeared to Cornelius and told him to invite Peter to his house so that he could hear what Peter had to say.

"Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day, he and the three men set out for Cornelius' house in the city of Caesarea. Some of the believers from Joppa came along, too.

*Act like you're taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #7 (Peter and Cornelius' men travel to Caesarea)*

*SFX: Camera click*

“At some point, Peter had begun to understand what the vision about the sheet and the animals really meant. It was forbidden for Jewish people to eat certain foods, and it was also forbidden for Jews to enter the home of non-Jews.

“But God was making new rules about what was ‘clean.’ In fact, God was showing Peter something important about the story of Jesus. He wanted Peter to see that what Jesus had done wasn’t just for Jewish people. It was for EVERYONE.”

### **AT CORNELIUS’ HOUSE**

**STORYTELLER:** “They arrived at Cornelius’ house, and Peter stepped inside.

*Act like you’re taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #8 (Peter steps into Cornelius’ house)*

*SFX: Camera click*

“Inside the home, Cornelius had gathered all of his relatives and friends to hear Peter. The commander lowered himself to the ground as a sign of deep respect in front of Peter. Peter said this wasn’t necessary and that Cornelius should stand back up because Peter was only a man.

“Cornelius explained everything the angel had told him. Then Peter shared with everyone how God had sent Jesus to share God’s love.

*Act like you’re taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #9 (Peter tells everyone in the house about Jesus)*

*SFX: Camera click*



“Peter told them how Jesus had taught and healed people through God’s power. Peter also told them that Jesus had been killed then raised to life again by God! Peter told the small crowd how he and some of his friends had actually SEEN Jesus after He was raised from the dead.

“While Peter spoke, God sent his Holy Spirit to Cornelius and his family and friends. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed. God had given His Spirit to these new believers even though they weren’t Jewish.”

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Because of the vision he saw and because of his experience with Cornelius’ family, Peter had a whole new picture of God’s Story.

*Act like you’re taking a picture with the camera.*

*CG: Bible story image #10 (Bible timeline)*

*SFX: Camera click*

“He learned that God’s love is for ALL people, not just Jewish people. Peter baptized Cornelius and all of his family and friends in the name of Jesus, and he stayed with them for several days. He was amazed by the new understanding God had given him.

“The truth is:

*CG: Bottom Line Slide*

**[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others.**

“When we put our faith in Jesus, it makes us want other people to experience His love for themselves. It makes us want to show His love to the people around us, every single day.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us see other people the way He does.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus—not just for some people—but for the whole world! Help us to see other people the way You do, and to show love by **[Basic Truth] treating others the way we want to be treated**. Thank You for changing the way we see other people because we’ve experienced Your love for ourselves. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

## Closer

**CG: Today’s Story Image**

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

**HOST:** “Wow. That vision that God gave Peter was pretty amazing. And Peter really paid attention to what it meant.

“Basically, God was telling Peter that He should give others a chance. He wanted Peter to see that the story of Jesus is for everyone. That’s why Peter had the courage to do something he’d never done before—go into the home of someone who wasn’t Jewish. And when he did, he was able to tell everyone there that Jesus is God’s Son, and the Savior of the world.

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

“If you think about it, the reason WE know about Jesus today is because someone told us. People have been spreading the word about Jesus ever since the early days of the church. That was exactly what God had planned all along, because God wants everyone to know Him. His rescue plan is for all of us.

**CG: Timeline**

“In fact, at the very beginning of God’s story, God promised Abraham that He would bless the world through Abraham’s family. Many, many, MANY years later, God sent Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him that will last forever. What Jesus did is for EVERYONE. That’s what God showed Peter that day.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others.**

“That was certainly true for Peter. It can be true for us, too. God can help us see others in a whole new way. When we FOCUS on what Jesus has done for us, that makes us want to tell the good news about Jesus to other people. We can live our faith by sharing His love with others.

“You’ll get to talk about that more in Small Group. You can head that way now!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**CG: Theme Slide**